

REPORT  
ON  
NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE  
Week ending the 18th August 1883.

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LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.				
Fortnightly.				
1	" Sansodhini " ... ..	Chittagong ... ..	653	
2	" Purva Pratidhwani " ... ..	Ditto ... ..	474	
3	" Tripurá Vártávaha " ... ..	Comillah ... ..	.....	
4	" Prem Pracháriní " ... ..	Nawabgunge, Barrack- pore. ... ..	.....	
Weekly.				
5	" Ananda Bazar Patriká " ... ..	Calcutta ... ..	700	13th August 1883.
6	" Arya Darpan " ... ..	Ditto ... ..	150	10th ditto.
7	" Bangabási " ... ..	Ditto ... ..	8,500	4th ditto.
8	" Bártábaha " ... ..	Pubna ... ..	.....	
9	" Bhárat Bandhu " ... ..	Calcutta ... ..	.....	
10	" Bhárat Hitaishí " ... ..	Burrisal ... ..	450	3rd ditto.
11	" Bhárat Mihir " ... ..	Mymensingh ... ..	713	14th ditto.
12	" Bardwán Sanjívani " ... ..	Burdwan ... ..	282	
13	" Cháruvártá " ... ..	Sherepore, Mymensingh ... ..	529	6th ditto.
14	" Dacca Prakásh " ... ..	Dacca ... ..	526	
15	" Education Gazette " ... ..	Hooghly ... ..	745	10th ditto.
16	" Grámvártá Prakáshiká " ... ..	Comercolly ... ..	267	11th ditto.
17	" Halisahar Prakáshiká " ... ..	Calcutta ... ..	.....	
18	" Hindu Ranjika " ... ..	Beauleah, Rajshahye... ..	200	
19	" Játíya Suhrid " ... ..	Calcutta ... ..	700	
20	" Murshidábád Patriká " ... ..	Berhampore ... ..	418	
21	" Murshidábád Pratinidhi " ... ..	Ditto ... ..	.....	10th ditto.
22	" Navavibhakar " ... ..	Calcutta ... ..	850	13th ditto.
23	" Paridarshak " ... ..	Sylhet ... ..	421	5th ditto.
24	" Prajá Bandhu " ... ..	Chandernagore ... ..	287	7th ditto.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
<b>BENGALI—concluded.</b>				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
25	"Pratikár" ... ..	Berhampore ...	275	5th August 1883.
26	"Pratinidhi" ... ..	Calcutta ...	1,000	
27	"Rajshahye Samvād" ... ..	Beauleah ...	.....	
28	"Rungpore Dik Prakāsh" ... ..	Kakiniā, Rungpore ...	220	
29	"Sādhārani" ... ..	Chinsurah ...	500	
30	"Sahachar" ... ..	Calcutta ...	500	
31	"Samaya" ... ..	Ditto ...	.....	
32	"Sanjivani" ... ..	Ditto ...	.....	
33	"Saraswat Patra" ... ..	Dacca ...	.....	
34	"Som Prakāsh" ... ..	Changripottā, 24-Perghs. ...	.....	
35	"Sulabha Samāchar" ... ..	Calcutta ...	3,000	13th ditto.
36	"Surabhi" ... ..	Deoghur ...	.....	4th ditto.
<i>Daily.</i>				
37	"Samvād Prabhākar" ... ..	Calcutta ...	250	13th ditto.
38	"Samvād Purnachandrodaya" ... ..	Ditto ...	300	9th, 10th, 14th & 15th ditto.
39	"Samachār Chandrikā" ... ..	Ditto ...	625	
40	"Banga Vidyā Prakāshikā" ... ..	Ditto ...	500	
41	"Prabhāti" ... ..	Ditto ...	500	
<b>ENGLISH AND URDU.</b>				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
42	"Urdu Guide" ... ..	Calcutta ...	365	11th August 1883.
<b>HINDI.</b>				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
43	"Bhārat Mitra" ... ..	Calcutta ...	1,500	9th ditto.
44	"Sār Sudhānidhi" ... ..	Ditto ...	500	6th ditto.
45	"Uchit Baktā" ... ..	Ditto ...	.....	4th & 11th ditto.
<b>PERSIAN.</b>				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
46	"Jām-Jahān-numā" ... ..	Calcutta ...	250	
<b>ASSAMESE.</b>				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
47	"Assam Vilāsini" ... ..	Sibsagar ...	.....	
<b>URIYA.</b>				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
48	"Utkal Dīpikā" ... ..	Cuttack ...	188	4th ditto.
49	"Utkal Darpan" ... ..	Balasore ...	200	29th July 1883.
50	"Balasore Samvad Vāhikā" ... ..	Ditto ...	92	2nd August 1883.
51	"Purusottam Patrikā" ... ..	Pooree ...	330	
<b>HINDI.</b>				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
52	"Kshatriya Patrikā" ... ..	Patna ...	400	

## POLITICAL.

SURABHI,  
August 13th, 1883.

The *Surabhi*, of the 13th August, does not think that the Government of India will be a gainer by the arrangement under which it is to pay the Amir a yearly subsidy of 12 lakhs of rupees. The subsidy will only be a drain on the already depressed Indian revenues. If Russia is determined to invade India, the only effect of having a friendly Amir in Afghanistan will be to delay that catastrophe. Is it advisable to spend so much for this slight advantage?

The subsidy to the Amir.

## PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

BHARAT HITAIISHI,  
August 3rd, 1883.

2. The *Bhārat Hitaiishi*, of the 3rd August, contains an article on the Ilbert Bill, from which we extract the following observations:—In England the Liberal ministry approves of the Ilbert Bill. The liberal-minded John Bright observes, that it would not be proper to disregard the opinion of two hundred and fifty millions of the Indian people in deference to the outcry of a few thousands of Anglo-Indians. The opponents of the Ilbert Bill have not the shadow of an argument to adduce in support of their contention. Their protests are like the ravings of a maniac, and they are pouring abuse on natives, on Lord Ripon, and on Mr. Ilbert. Under these circumstances, the noble-minded Lord Ripon will not shrink from doing what is approved by good policy, and will not withdraw the Bill. It is now almost certain that the measure will be passed into law. Knowing that it will be passed, the non-official Anglo-Indians, the tea and the indigo planters are seized with terror. They feel that they will no longer be able to commit oppression on the people of this country with impunity, and hence they threaten that they will, if the Bill is passed into law, leave the country bag and baggage. Their threats are as idle as their fears are unfounded. The two or three native magistrates who may be vested with jurisdiction over Europeans cannot occupy all the judicial offices in the country. Nor is there much probability of their number being increased in future, inasmuch as the chances are but small of any native lad of eighteen years of age crossing the seas and then passing the Civil Service examination in England. Nor is it very probable that a native magistrate and a native civil surgeon will be appointed at the same time to one and the same district. If, therefore, in any district which had a native civilian as its magistrate, a non-official European—a trader—kicked a man to death, the surgeon, who was a countryman of the accused, would at once certify that the deceased had died from the effects of ruptured spleen and liver. The fears of tea planters and other non-official Europeans are therefore perfectly groundless, and they are needlessly raising an outcry against the Ilbert Bill. There will be no let or hindrance to their highhandedness even if the Bill is passed into law.

The Ilbert Bill and Anglo-Indians.

3. A correspondent of the same paper sends it a song which purports to have been sung by two peasant boys in Madaripore. The substance of it is, that the affairs of the country have come to a miserable pass.

BHARAT HITAIISHI.

The peasantry under British rule, a song.

When taxes were imposed the people were told, that with the proceeds of those taxes roads would be constructed and canals would be excavated, and that thus they would be made happy. But they are now disappointed at finding that all these promises are false. The people paid the taxes by selling even their domestic utensils. Everything about the blood-sucking *feringhee* is false. The leading men of the native community shew their valour before their wives, but are nobodies before the rulers of the country. Justice is not impartially administered. The imprisonment of Surendra Nath Banerjee has caused great pain.

SANJIVANI,  
August 4th, 1883.

4. We take the following paragraph from the *Sanjivani*, of the 4th August:—From a long time past the travelling allowances for Deputy and Sub-Deputy Inspectors of Schools had been annas 4 and 3 per mile, respectively. In April last, it was, however, ruled that officers drawing less pay than Rs. 100 a month, would thenceforth be granted travelling allowance at the rate of two annas a mile. Owing to this new rule not a few of the officers concerned have found it necessary on the occasion of their inspection tours to pay travelling expense from their own pockets. The ways of the Bengal Government are really mysterious. Formerly only a few officers used to accompany the Lieutenant-Governor to Darjeeling. Their number has been, however, recently considerably increased. Government does not feel the least scruple in expending large sums on their journeys. All the difficulty, it would seem, arises in the case of the poor. It would have looked well if the Lieutenant-Governor had first curtailed his own travelling allowances and then reduced those of subordinate officers. It is these distinctions that we cannot bear.

SANJIVANI.

5. The same paper makes the following observations in another paragraph:—Major Baring has received the title of K. C. S. I. Great men like Major Baring, no matter whether or not they have any titles of distinction added to their names, are in all circumstances of life possessed of dignity. We are, nevertheless, gratified to see merit honoured. We shall be happy to see this Indian title always associated with Major Baring's name. The honour that has been conferred upon him has gratified everybody, except the *Englishman*, upon whose face there sits sadness. The editor of that paper is sorry that Mr. Rivers Thompson's claims have been overlooked in favour of those of Major Baring. But the *Englishman* ought to remember that the only way to make a title worthless is to confer it on an undeserving person. Let Mr. Thompson first shew his fitness, and the title will be forthcoming. Let him do a few other beneficial acts like the creation of the Agricultural Department, and we shall with pleasure write of him as "Sir Rivers Thompson, K. C. S. I."

SANJIVANI.

6. The same paper remarks that the Privy Council has rejected the appeal of Babu Surendra Nath Banerjee, on the ground that the Calcutta High Court possesses summary jurisdiction in contempt cases. A powerful agitation should now be made in the country for the withdrawal of this power from the High Court. Government should be asked to revoke this power by legislative enactment. Nobody will be safe so long as the High Court possesses this power.

SANJIVANI.

7. The same paper contains a long article in which the editor gives some valuable advice to young natives who may be supposed to be impatient of foreign domination. He asks, how are the people of India to acquire from the English the rights and privileges to which they are lawfully entitled? Should they have recourse to any acts of violence and sedition; should they secretly conspire against the British Government; raise armies, and manufacture arms and ammunition? Suppose they do these things and rise in successful rebellion against the authority of the British Government, still would that be desirable? The reply is, that such acts can never be desirable. Anarchy is a source of manifold evils. A rebellion which results in the subversion of any established Government and the introduction of anarchy in its place, does more harm than good to the country. At such times the army usurps all the powers of Government, and unscrupulous men find opportunity to gratify their selfishness. Even if after the subversion of despotism a better form of Government be established, it cannot last long if the masses are not prepared for it. Consequently there is soon a reversion

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to despotism. A revolution again, retards the progress of a country, and destroys its industries which can only thrive in peace. For these reasons, intelligent and educated men should never countenance seditious acts; nay, it is, on the contrary, their duty to help Government in the work of putting down such acts. How then can the people of India acquire from Englishmen the rights and privileges which rightfully belong to them? The answer is, by means of legal and constitutional agitation. To go against the wishes of the majority of the people is a course to which English statesmanship has ever been opposed. Persistent agitation again, develops the qualities of patience and perseverance in the nation, and stimulates the love of truth and patriotism. It is a potent means of imparting a political education to the people, and of teaching them to work in combination.

8. The following observations are extracted from an article in the *The Ilbert Bill and Anglo-Indians.* *Bangabási* of the 4th August, headed "Is this a property of the soil?"—The Indian

BANGABASI,  
August 4th, 1883.

soil, it would seem, possesses some incomprehensible property. Most Englishmen, as soon as their feet touch India, are turned into curious creatures. A number of incomprehensible, unnatural, and infernal notions, causelessly, needlessly, and quite spontaneously spring up in their minds and become developed and firmly rooted there. Nobody sows the seed or waters it, and yet, it is not known, under what demoniacal influence, a dreadful and destructive Upas tree springs up from it in the dark recesses of their hearts and there grows and puts forth its blossoms. Under the dark and demoniacal shade of this tree the highest and the noblest aspirations of the human mind languish and die. Certain rank prejudices only flourish there and produce baneful fruits. The Indian soil, it seems, possesses some incomprehensible property.

The class of Englishmen described above numbers many of its members among Anglo-Indians. Most of them oppose the Ilbert Bill. The sole cause of their opposition lies in their naturally evil disposition, rendered worse by their bad training. A consideration of their disposition and actions sends a thrill of horror through the heart. Their speech lacks politeness; their conduct refinement. They have no religious scruples, nor do they fear public disapprobation. Their political life consists in slandering others. The ignoring of truth seems to be the sole object, and self-seeking the vow of their life. They are scurrilous, intriguing, arrogant, grasping, and self-seeking; they are enemies of peace and of society. They are the followers of Satan and dregs of the English race. They are low curs born in the family of the noble lion.

It is no wonder that these worthies should be found to oppose the Ilbert Bill; inasmuch as they are opponents of everything that is approved by good policy and a sense of duty; of everything that is great and holy. They are opposed to the Ilbert Bill because the Ilbert Bill is the outcome of a liberal policy, and aims at the removal of an invidious race-distinction. What wonder that prejudiced and narrow-minded Englishmen are opposing the measure? It would be a wonder if they had acted otherwise. That a thief will not listen attentively to religious preaching is natural enough. These Anglo-Indians desire that, while the English should enjoy the loaves and fishes of India, natives should live as best as they can on the dust of the earth. They desire that, as conquerors, the English should be placed above the reach of the law, while natives, as the conquered, should not be allowed to claim any rights. They desire that the relations between Europeans and natives should be similar to that which exists between a man and his dog. The dog is kicked in a fit of anger and is patted in a moment of tenderness. The Anglo-Indians have become so unreasonable in their opposition, that it is idle to attempt to argue with them. Nevertheless, the

improper conduct of those who are genuine Englishmen is, in some measure, intelligible. We know that man is naturally a very selfish creature, and that the Englishman is an incarnation of pride. We know that the authority of the master is always opposed to the authority of the slave, and that any increase of the rights of the slave is always an eyesore to the master. The present conduct of the English, therefore, is somewhat intelligible; but why are Eurasians who are half-castes or rather no-castes, making so much brag and bluster? Why do the hybrids among Mlechhas abuse those that are descended from Aryans? Why do those, a touch of whose shadow even renders expiation necessary, brag and bluster so much? Genuine Englishmen may be dealt with; but this band of fools who have no country of their own, who do not belong to any one caste, or race, are hard to be dealt with. Their opposition is, again, the most inveterate. There are Englishmen who look upon the people of India with tenderness and have the good of India at heart; but to these worthless Eurasians the people of India are objects of as much dislike as Holy Water is to the devil. The people of India, however, can well afford to ignore the feelings of East Indians, but those fools ought to be told that they should not consider themselves Englishmen, and that, in order to be able to claim the rights of Englishmen, they must be prepared to prove, as the law requires, that their forefathers up to a certain generation were lawfully married. How many of them can prove this? Why are they then acting in this suicidal manner? It is needless to write much about the Eurasians. To do so would be to encourage meanness and stupidity. They are so insignificant that their professions and acts may be safely overlooked. What more can be expected of a people, most of whom owe their existence to infernal unions of savage non-Aryan women with Englishmen of a brutal and lawless disposition? But why have Englishmen, whose native land is the pleasure-ground of liberty, learning, wealth, and liberal statemanship, become of this disposition?

PARIDARSHAK,  
August 5th, 1883.

9. The *Paridarshak*, of the 5th August, remarks, that the transfer of Sylhet to the Chief Commissionership of Assam has been a retrograde measure. Sylhet is now a non-regulation district. The inhabitants eagerly desire to see their district re-transferred to Bengal, and complain of the local rates imposed upon them. If the Draft Land Revenue Regulation for Assam, now before the Government of India, be passed, their misery will know no bounds. The inhabitants are exhorted to make a powerful agitation to have Sylhet re-transferred to Bengal.

PARIDARSHAK.

10. A correspondent of the same paper gives a long account of the measures that have been adopted with a view to induce the Bombay coolies destined for the Bortal and Lalang tea gardens to take to their work. These men were enticed away from their homes by recruiters by false promises. They were told that they would be employed in Benares. It was too late when they discovered their mistake. They left the gardens in a body, and have come to the sudder station of Sylhet. The local authorities have used every means to persuade them to return to their work; but they are determined not to do so. They would rather go to jail, and even commit suicide than go to the gardens. The Deputy Commissioner employed the police to deal with them. But even this has proved ineffectual. The men of the frontier police began to drag them over the ground, but failed in the end. For three days the coolies remained without food. A telegram has been sent to the Chief Commissioner. The Deputy Commissioner is blamed for the cruel treatment to which the coolies have been subjected. The Hindus and the Mahomedans of Sylhet are, with a few exceptions, shewing great sympathy with the sufferers.

Coolies in Assam.

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SADHARANI,  
August 6th, 1882.

11. The *Sádháraní*, of the 5th August, makes the following observations in its opening article :—Although Lord Ripon

Effect of bad laws.

has recently published a Resolution pointing out the desirability of subjecting all Bills of the Legislative Council to a searching examination, yet, in practice, only one or two Bills are receiving this benefit. Formerly there was nothing of all this. It is not in the nature of a despotism to legislate or to act after giving a patient hearing to what the people say. Those, moreover, that occupy seats in the Legislative Councils, as representatives of the native society, do not as a rule, owing to an idea that their views would not be accepted, or owing to indolence or other cause, care to discuss carefully the provisions of any Bill; while the great majority of the officials who frame Bills are not much acquainted with the condition of the country. The Bills framed by them are, after they have been subjected to a little superficial criticism, passed into law. Hence it is that many important Acts are not found to be suited to the requirements of the country. Add to this the exacting spirit which is a principal characteristic of the British Government. Most of those laws which savour of revenue are one-sided. The tax must be levied anyhow. What hardship this would cause to the people is not often thought of by the Legislature. Then again, the masses in this country are perfectly illiterate, inactive, and apathetic; the middle classes are but indifferently educated, and pursue their respective avocations. Excepting a small number of litigious persons, the great majority of those who belong to these classes have not much knowledge of law. They feel extremely uncomfortable if they are called upon to draft a petition against an enhanced assessment. The law is full of intricacies and not easy of comprehension. Even the legal practitioners are not always willing to labour to comprehend a law, if by so doing they cannot become directly any gainers. Lastly, those that administer the law have each of them a crotchet of his own. There are Judges who take a pleasure in convicting; there are assessors whose invariable practice it is to assess incomes at sums the double of those which may be put down by the assessee; and there are Deputy Collectors who think themselves supremely blessed if only they can write to Government that "as compared with the last settlement, the present settlement shews a large increase of revenue." The outcome of all this is, that, owing partly to bad laws, partly to the apathetic disposition of the masses, and partly to the crotchets of public officers, the people of the country are at different times subjected to different sorts of hardship.

12. The same paper makes the following observations in another article :—The three adverse circumstances referred to in the preceding article, coupled with the manner in which the Road Cess

The Road Cess Act in the Hooghly district.

SADHARANI.

and the Public Works Cess are being levied in the Hooghly district, have caused extreme hardship to those who hold rent-free tenures in this district. All through this month of Srávan, nearly two hundred men have every day been uttering in a subdued tone their complaints in the road cess office, and another two hundred people have been loudly complaining in the houses of the pleaders, mukhtears, and others with whom they have put up. People have been coming and going back, but their hardship continues, and there is as much noise as ever. The road cess due on rent-free lands is, as a rule, levied in connection with the zemindari or putnee, of which they form a part. But regarding such rent-free lands as do not come under this arrangement, there is provision made in Act IX of 1880 for issuing separate notices. It is not everywhere that the provisions of this Act are in force, the Lieutenant-Governor possessing the discretion to extend them to any particular locality. As

the Hooghly district is one of the advanced districts in Bengal; as the inhabitants have, in the matter of paying compensation for the excavation of the Dankuni khal, shewn unexampled patience; and as it is thought that there is "blood" (wealth) in the Hooghly district, the Lieutenant-Governor has directed the extension of the provisions of the Act to the district—provisions which, like a knife, are to dissect the subjects. It is this measure which has brought extreme misery upon the petty lakhirajdars in the Hooghly district.

The Road Cess Act is a wonderful piece of legislation. It does not shew any concern for the life and death of the people. That task is entrusted to the Famine Commission. The Legislature, of course, did not trouble their heads with such childish matters, but occupied themselves with divising means whereby not the smallest bit of land could escape the road cess valuation, not one person who had any concern in land might evade assessment, and the road cess might be realized to the last cowrie. The Act contains provisions of the sun-set law, the certificate process for the recovery of public demands; provisions for realizing, in certain cases, sums the double of what would meet the requirements of the law, if paid in during the year; and the inevitable provisions for levying interest at the rate of  $12\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. per annum. A perusal of the whole Act would lead one to suppose that it was a digest of all rigorous laws.

The Collector is to make a valuation of all property: section 27 of the Act tells him how he is to do it—"as to him shall seem fit." He is thus placed above the necessity of even taking evidence. The whole Act is full of such provisions. Petty lakhirajdars are, under section 70 of the Act, required to pay the road cess. The main provisions of the Act are then briefly these: the Collector shall make such valuation as to him may seem fit; that, without demanding the cess for three years, he may in the fourth year levy the cess for all that period, together with interest at the rate  $12\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. on each instalment from the date on which such instalment would have been payable if such valuation had been in force. This is precisely what is being done in the Hooghly district. No less than 50,000 notices are said to have been issued all at once.

SADHARANI,  
August 5th, 1883.

13. The same paper continues the subject in another article, from which we extract the following observations:—People are coming in crowds to the road cess office at Hooghly. The Railway Company, the mukhtears, and the petty shopkeepers are having a good time of it; but poor people are suffering extremly. During the last three years no separate notices were issued; but now all at once the road cess due for three-and-a-half years, together with interest at the rate of  $12\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., together with the cess due for the last six months—that is the road cess and the Public Works cess for four years—is being levied. It is not fair to levy the cess due for four years at one and the same time. The rate of interest again is very high. If the cess had been levied regularly year by year defaulters would have been justly liable to pay the interest on arrears. But though the provisions of the Act were not formally brought to their notice, yet they are held liable to pay the interest. Where there are several co-parceners of a rent-free tenure, notice is being issued in the name of only one among them, and he is to pay the whole amount of the cess due on land held by him jointly with others. If he wishes to recover the cess from his coparceners he may sue them in court. Thus he is put to great hardship and loss. Illiterate ryots again, are, in most cases made to pay the cess twice over. They have once paid it to the zemindar;

The road cess and petty lakhirajdars in the Hooghly district.

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and again, if they cannot produce cheque receipts, which many of them cannot, they have to pay it to the Collector. The ryots have got an idea that, unless they personally come to the road cess office and pay the cess, their holdings will not be regarded as lakhiraj. They are, consequently, coming in crowds. Great inconvenience is being caused to respectable native widows and minors who own lakhiraj holdings. The peasants again, are being subjected to great loss owing to their absence from their homes during this season of cultivation. There are not good roads everywhere. Why is Government needlessly becoming the model of a bad zemindar?

Road cess in Hooghly.

14. The same paper gives the details of seven cases, which illustrate the remarks made in the preceding article.

SADHARANI,  
August 5th, 1883.

15. The *Cháru Vártá*, of the 6th August, remarks, that the decision of the Lieutenant-Governor in the case of Asraf Bibi has pained not only that lady but

Asraf Bibi's case.

CHARU VARTA,  
August 6th, 1883.

all who have carefully read any complete account of what transpired in Dohazari. The decision of the High court in this case was such as was worthy of it; the same, however, cannot be said of Mr. Thompson's decision. Most people believe that His Honor's decision is an insult to justice. Indeed, since the Lieutenant-Governor, who is the last refuge of the oppressed, has not been moved by the tears of the widow of Fazl Ali, where will people find redress of grievances caused by Magistrates like Mr. Manson? Not to speak of the other proceedings taken in this case, was it proper to have taken away from the widow her only boy, at a time when she was yet mourning the death of her husband? The Lieutenant-Governor has expressed his regret at this action, and admitted that the prosecution of Tarun Sinha and Purna Chandra was not a well-advised step, and yet he has commended Mr. Manson and Kaylas Baboo for what they have done in connection with this case. There will be an end of all justice if high-handedness is thus encouraged.

16. The same paper, while it fully recognizes the desirability of establishing appellate benches, yet takes exception to the manner in which these

Appellate benches.

CHARU VARTA.

benches are proposed to be constituted, and makes the following remarks on the subject:—The two judges who shall form a bench should be given equal pay. Both judges should, therefore, be civilians, or the pay of the native judge should be the same as that granted to his civilian colleague on the bench. Otherwise the latter will look upon the former as his superior. It is doubtful whether the establishment of the appellate benches will really have the effect of reducing the amount of work in the hands of the High Court to the extent anticipated. The number of appeals to the High Court will not be reduced if people do not have the same confidence in the appellate bench as they have in the High Court. The relations that should subsist between the High Court, the District Judge's court and the appellate benches should be clearly defined. As far as can be seen at present, it seems that the establishment of the benches will have the effect of lightening the labours of the District Judge. Considering the powers that are to be vested in these benches, it appears that they will be placed only a little higher than the District Judge's court. It was expected that the appellate benches would be much like the High Court. What of that expectation?

17. The same paper is glad to find it stated that Mr. Thompson has now under his consideration the subject of the outstill system. The editor beseeches His

The outstill system.

CHARU VARTA.

Honor to deliver Bengal from the curse of this system.

PRAJA BANDHU,  
August 7th, 1883.

18. In an article on the operations of the Road Cess Act in Hooghly, the *Prajá Bandhu*, of the 7th August, makes observations similar to those noticed in paragraph 11.

UCHIT BAKTA,  
August 4th, 1883.

19. The *Uchit Baktá*, of the 4th August, indignantly repels the charge of low morality which the *Englishman* has recently brought against the natives of India, and observes that, in dishonest practice and low commercial morality, the Europeans surpass natives.

BHARAT MITRA,  
August 9th, 1883.

20. The *Bhárat Mitra*, of the 9th August, remarks, that the impressment of labour and taking articles without paying for them constitute two blots on the character of many European officers of Government. The latter practice is frequently resorted to by them on the occasion of tours through the mofussil.

SAR SUDHANIDHI,  
August 6th, 1883.

21. The *Sár Sudhánidhi*, of the 6th August, fully approves of the action of the Lieutenant-Governor in deciding upon the establishment of an Agricultural Department and school in Bengal, and hopes that the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh will follow Mr. Thompson's example in this matter.

ARYA DARPAN,  
August 10th, 1883.

22. The *Arya Darpan*, of the 10th August, remarks in reference to the meeting recently held at Krishnaghur by certain native Christians in opposition to that held in Calcutta, to consider the means of forming a national fund, that the proceedings of the former meeting are repudiated by all Native Christians in Bengal.

SULABHA SAMACHAR,  
August 11th, 1883.

23. The *Sulabha Samáchár*, of the 11th August, remarks, that those Europeans who are needlessly abusing natives are so many Judas Iscariots among the Christians of India, and are bent upon betraying their master.

ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
August 13th, 1883.

24. The following is a translation of an article in the *Ananda Bazar Patriká*, of the 13th August, headed the "Report on the Chittagong case:"—When Mr. Rivers Thompson rejected the petition of the Bogra Sankirtan party, people thought that, as His Honor had but recently taken charge of the Bengal administration, he might have possibly his shortcomings. The native public again had not much concern in the case of the Bogra Sankirtan party. Some persons, moreover, have unfortunately a natural dislike for the name of God, and it was, perhaps, this misfortune which led Mr. Sharp to offer insult to the members of the Sankirtan party. Probably, the Lieutenant-Governor considered Mr. Sharp an unfortunate man, and thus pardoned his offence. Owing to these and similar thoughts people did not much mind the improper decision of Mr. Thompson in that case.

Afterwards again, in Furreedpore, did Mr. Sharp offer insult to one of the leading Mahomedans. This Mahomedan was a zemindar, and had received the title of nawab at the hands of Government. He came to Furreedpore to pay his respects to the Lieutenant-Governor at the time when His Honor went to that place, and Mr. Sharp, the Magistrate of Furreedpore, insulted him on that occasion. The Lieutenant-Governor had known the nawab for a long time past. The insulted nawab, with tears in his eyes, informed His Honor of this, but His Honor did not grant him any redress. Everybody, probably, remembers the case of Mr. Rattray, the District Superintendent of Police, Pubna. In seeking to place a party in possession of a house, he killed one person and severely wounded another. There was great agitation made over this case. Mr. Thompson appointed an official to make enquiries into it.

The Lieutenant-Governor's decision in this case took everybody in Bengal by surprise. In His Honor's opinion, by killing one person and severely wounding another, Mr. Rattray had but discharged his duty.

But the decision in the Chittagong case has surpassed all others. Nobody has, perhaps, forgotten the oppression which was committed by Mr. Manson, the Collector of Chittagong, on Asraf Bibi, the widow of Fazl Ali, a local zemindar. Immediately after the death of Fazl Ali, the Collector, acting under the authority of the Court of Wards, took possession of the house and other immoveable and moveable property of the deceased. Afterwards, Baboo Tarun Sinha, a respectable zemindar of Chittagong, and Baboo Purno Chundra, one of the leading pleaders of the place, came to Asraf Bibi's house to see her. For this offence, a criminal prosecution was instituted against them. This was followed by an attempt to cause a separation of her minor son from her, a widow who was yet mourning the death of her husband. Asraf Bibi did not agree to this, and made a petition, stating that, as she was now overwhelmed with grief, to take away her child from her at that time would be inflicting an extreme cruelty upon her; and that she should consider herself happy if the Collector would only be good enough to take away her child after at least forty days, the prescribed period of mourning. But even this prayer was refused by the Collector, who proceeded to institute a criminal prosecution against her for her refusal to part with her child. Thus at every step did Mr. Manson violate law and do injustice, and yet Mr. Thompson holds that the oppression committed upon the Bibi by the local authorities of Chittagong was perfectly justifiable, and that if they have fallen into any error, nobody should blame them for this.

The oppression committed by Mr. Manson upon the widow of Fazl Ali and upon her friends and relations formed the subject of suits before the High Court and the Board of Revenue. In the High Court Mr. Justice Field tried the case. He did not publish his decision at Darjeeling through his Secretary. He examined with his own eyes all the papers in the case. The pleaders and barristers of the opposing parties explained to him both sides of the question, and after a careful consideration of the evidence, he came to the conclusion that the authorities of Chittagong had acted in a very illegal manner towards Asraf Bibi. He considered Mr. Manson guilty, but held that the manager Kaylas Baboo was the greater offender. The case was summarily disposed of by the Board; and the conclusion of the Board was that the local authorities had not done much justice to the widow of Fazl Ali; and yet, Mr. Rivers Thompson's decision is that the local authorities of Chittagong are not guilty.

The injustice which the local authorities of Chittagong have done to Asraf Bibi is such that even a strong heart will break on hearing of it. Consequently the triumphant manner in which Mr. Thompson wrote his minute on the Pubna murder case is wanting in the report on the Chittagong case. He has had to admit at every step the faults of either the Commissioner, Mr. Lewis; of the Collector, Mr. Manson; or of the manager, Baboo Kaylash Chundra. But the Lieutenant-Governor has either sought to explain away those faults by abusing those who brought the present case against the local authorities of Chittagong or to make light of those faults by using language such as that used by an old father by way of extenuating the faults of a favourite and spoilt child. "He is not a sensible fellow, his heart is good; don't mind what he has done."

That by his efforts to snatch the infant son from its mourning mother, and by his instituting a criminal prosecution against her for her refusal to part with her child, Mr. Manson has done grave injustice and shewn hard-heartedness, is what Mr. Thompson has been compelled to admit. What

then is the punishment inflicted by him after he has admitted this serious fault of Mr. Manson? The Lieutenant-Governor has not punished him for this, nor has His Honor said that a repetition of this offence on Mr. Manson's part will subject him to punishment, nor has it been said that the Lieutenant-Governor is extremely dissatisfied with his conduct. His Honor has only said in a mild tone, after closing his eyes and ears, that in their action in this case, the local authorities of Chittagong have been led into errors of judgment.

Baboos Tarun Sinha and Purna Chundra had gone to Asraf Bibi's house as her own request; but the mohurir of the Court of Wards, Baboo Chundra Mohan prevented them from seeing her, and for this fault Baboos Tarun Sinha and Purna Chundra were criminally prosecuted by the Collector. This incident also has placed Mr. Thompson in a somewhat awkward position. His Honor has sought to defend Mr. Manson by throwing his fault upon the poor mohurir.

We do not know whether Mr. Thompson is acting properly or improperly by thus supporting the injustice and illegality perpetrated by local officers. We believe that, instead of increasing the powers of local officers, this will rather weaken them.

ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
August 13th, 1883.

25. The same paper contains an article on "Appellate benches." The editor remarks that it would increase

Appellate Benches.

the efficiency of an appellate bench and render reference to the High Court in case of a difference of opinion between the judges, less frequent, if, instead of two, there were appointed three judges to every bench, selected respectively from the ranks of civilians, subordinate judges, and pleaders. There should not be much difference in the salaries of the judges.

ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA.

26. The same paper remarks, that internal dissensions have broken out among the opponents of the Ilbert Bill. In not a few cases it has so happened, that Calcutta

The Ilbert Bill.

agents of London firms and the directors of those firms in England have taken opposite sides in the present controversy, and that the latter have refused to sanction the subscriptions promised by the former to the European Defence Fund. Among East Indians again, there has been a difference of opinion. While those of Bengal have joined the agitation against the Bill, in the expectation of obtaining the rights of Europeans, those of Madras seem to have recognized their true position. The latter are now saying that the Ilbert Bill should be passed into law. The just cause which Lord Ripon has laboured to promote is thus going to triumph. His Excellency's firm resolution and unwavering regard for justice will have the effect of bringing many selfish persons to their senses, and of turning many atheists into God-fearing men.

ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA.

27. The same paper suggests the desirability of appointing an additional number of native gentlemen to the executive committee of the International Exhibition.

International Exhibition.

28. The same paper remarks, in reference to the Resolution recently recorded by the Government of India, regarding the grant of passes for the use of fire-arms to European soldiers desirous of shooting, that this measure has made Lord Ripon more popular with natives than ever. The document offers a marked contrast to the Fuller minute of Lord Lytton. Although the object of both is to prevent the slaughter of natives by Anglo-Indians, Lord Lytton's minute is full of words, but the present Resolution appears to the reader to be marked by a sincere desire to see the orders contained in it carried out in practice.

ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA.

Government Resolution regarding the shooting excursions of soldiers.

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29. The *Navavibhakar*, of the 13th August, contains an article on the report on the Calcutta hospitals for 1882.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,  
August 13th, 1883.

Calcutta hospitals.

The editor remarks, that the reports on the hospitals are gradually becoming more and more mystical. The Superintendents now fill up the body of the reports with praises of the administration of the hospitals under their charge. A pleader does not wish to point out the faults of his own client. The chief, Dr. Payne, is noted for his commendable sympathy with the people. He finds more pleasure in reducing public expenditure on hospitals than in attending to the health and comforts of the patients. His followers, Drs. Coates and Mackenzie, continue to tread in the footsteps of their master. The days of Smiths have gone by. Dr. Simpson acted for a few days for Dr. Payne, but what could he see or say during those few days? Sir Ashley Eden took credit by reducing hospital expenditure: Mr. Thompson is also treading in the footsteps of his predecessor. The number of patients in hospitals is decreasing, but what of that? The expenditure also is decreasing. This fact is made clear by a comparison of the figures for the last five years. The fact of the decrease is well-known, and cannot be concealed. But the Surgeon-General has said, by way of special pleading, that last year, owing to the prevalence of fever and dysentery of a fatal type, which made it impossible for the sick to repair to the hospitals in good time, the actual number of the patients in hospitals was small. This, the editor does not believe, in fact, the health officer's report precludes all possibility of this belief. Even the Lieutenant-Governor has been dissatisfied with the explanation given by the Surgeon-General, though His Honor has not expressed his dissatisfaction. The editor believes, nay is firmly convinced, that the sick do not now care to resort to hospitals because they do not receive proper medicine and diet as formerly. This grand achievement of Eden and Payne will be proclaimed for all time. The reputation of the Calcutta Medical College Hospital for skilful surgical operations is gradually decreasing. The Eden Midwifery Hospital is of more use to European than to native females, because the latter are not disposed to avail themselves of the advantages offered by such a public institution. The proposed appointment of Mr. Davis, the apothecary, to succeed Dr. Wallace as Resident Surgeon of this institution, is open to considerable objection, inasmuch as the former is not a competent physician. The rate of mortality among non-Christian patients in the College Hospital was higher than that among Christian patients. How is this to be accounted for? Was it due to the difference in the diet scales? The expenditure on the hospitals has been gradually reduced. The cost of medicine has decreased. If this decrease goes on at this rate, no medicines will, probably, be required in the course of a few years, and charms and holy-water will gradually take their place. If economy of expenditure be all that is required, why not introduce the homeopathic system into the hospitals? While so much attention is being paid to the subject of economy in one direction, the expenditure incurred in the General Hospital on account of sailors is increasing. And yet the Lieutenant-Governor is averse to the idea of demanding larger subscriptions from ship-owners. Why this undue favour to sailors? The Lieutenant-Governor is sorry that the expenditure in the Mayo Hospital has remained stationary. His Honor is therefore about to reduce the Government grant on this hospital. The action is truly worthy of a ruler! The Howrah hospital is gradually becoming more and more inaccessible to native patients. The diet scale has now been so far reduced that the cost for every native patient is fixed at six pice! Why take so much trouble? All difficulties would be removed if a system of treatment by fasting were introduced. In truth, the condition of the hospitals is gradually becoming increasingly bad. Native patients have no expectation of good. To respectable native gentlemen, the hospitals have long been closed; it now remains to shut their doors against the poor.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,  
August 18th, 1883.

30. The same paper contains an article on the municipal taxation of Calcutta. The editor advocates the levy of a duty on articles of general consumption in Calcutta and the abolition of the direct municipal tax. The observations made by the writer are the same as those contained in recent articles of the *Statesman* newspaper on the subject.

NAVAVIBHAKAR.

31. Now that Surendra Nath's appeal has been rejected by the Privy Council, the same paper exhorts the native public to agitate for the purpose of obtaining a revocation of the powers vested in the Calcutta High Court regarding contempt cases.

NAVAVIBHAKAR.

32. The same paper makes the following observations in an editorial paragraph:—Mr. Lewis, the old Commissioner of Chittagong, is shewing so much unfitness that, had it been under any other rule, he would have been discredited by this time, but thanks to the Bengal administration, Mr. Lewis has been rewarded in a special manner. This worthy used so long to draw Rs. 2,500 a month, but henceforth he will draw Rs. 2,916-10-9 a month, exclusive of the different allowances, which amount to Rs. 250 a month. No other Commissioner in Bengal receives so much pay. People say that Mr. Lewis is a near relative of Mr. Thompson.

NAVAVIBHAKAR.

33. We take the following from another editorial paragraph in the same paper:—It is not true that Mr. Thompson is only making a tour through the country. He is doing two things at once: seeing the car and selling plantains. His Honor is very clever in arguing against the Ilbert Bill. He is very much inclined towards the opponents of the Bill. As if he does not know who first raised the quarrel and began to make use of abusive language, he says "it is difficult to say who first quarrelled." Has His Honor forgotten the Town Hall affair? Has he also forgotten the Branson speech? Is he not a daily reader of the *Englishman*? His Honor says "what will it be after all if the Ilbert Bill pass? Only a little power will be given to two Bengalis. That is very trifling, very unimportant, not to be taken into account. But see on the other side how the minds of Englishmen would be wounded. It is natural it should be wounded." Are we still to hear such one-sided advocacy from the ruler of the country?

SOM PRASAD,  
August 18th, 1883.

34. The *Som Prakash*, of the 13th August, contains an article on Mr. Stapleton's case and the Sessions Judge of Agra. Mr. Stapleton's case, which was recently tried by the Allahabad High Court in appeal. Mr. Stapleton had assaulted a native woman, and for this he was sentenced to pay a fine and undergo imprisonment. The Sessions Judge of Agra reduced the term of imprisonment in consideration of the hardship that would be caused to the defendant by confinement in jail in this hot season. This judgment has been severely condemned by Mr. Justice Straight of the Allahabad High Court. The editor further refers to a case before the Cantonment Magistrate of Barrackpore, in which the accused, a European, was allowed to excuse himself from personal attendance in court, although he had been served with a summons. All these shew the undue partiality which is shewn by European Magistrates and Judges to Europeans. The only remedy for this state of things is to vest native magistrates with criminal jurisdiction over Europeans.

SOM PRASAD

35. The same paper observes, that a tax on articles of luxury, which are used by the rich, is the best that could be devised in India where the masses are poor.

36. A correspondent of the same paper sends it an account of the Lieutenant-Governor's visit to Santipore, and of the reception that was accorded to him there. The address that was presented to him contained only his praises, and this fact, remarks the correspondent, is a proof of the gratitude and loyalty of the people of Bengal. What can illustrate this better than the fact that the inhabitants of Santipore referred in their address only to the good acts of the Lieutenant-Governor, and did not make any mention of his faults; of his action in regard to the outstill system, and the supersession of Mr. B. L. Gupta, and the Rev. Lal Behari De; of his partiality for the tea and indigo planters; of his action in the Pubna case, and the Chittagong case?

SOM PRAKASH,  
August 13th, 1883.

37. The *Samaya*, of the 13th August, observes, that an increase of pay has been granted to Mr. Lewis, the Commissioner of Chittagong, doubtless for manner in which he acted in the case of Asraf Bibi. Why did the Lieutenant-Governor then shew a pretended regret for the conduct of the Chittagong officials in that case? It would appear that the more high-handed an officer becomes, the speedier becomes his promotion—witness the case of Mr. Kirkwood. Is not this holding out a premium to high-handedness?

SAMAYA,  
August 13th, 1883.

38. The following is a translation of an article in the *Samvād Prabhā-kār*, of the 14th August, headed "Mr. Rivers Thompson and the Ilbert Bill:"—

SAMVAD PRABHAKAR,  
August 14th, 1883.

It is not unknown that the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal is a strong opponent of Mr. Ilbert's Bill. The manner in which His Honor made his speech on the Bill in the Indian Legislative Council, and the manner in which he publicly besought the liberal-hearted Lord Ripon to withdraw the Bill, saying that, if that were done, there would be no loss of dignity on His Excellency's part, have made it clear that Mr. Thompson has joined the ranks of the narrow-minded non-official Anglo-Indians, and has given proofs of an extremely illiberal disposition. Subsequent to the making of that speech, the unusual honours that were paid him by the volunteer corps composed of non-official Europeans, have made it clear to all that, forgetting the dignity of his office and without looking to the interests of the seventy millions of Bengalis, Mr. Thompson has perfectly surrendered himself to love for his countrymen. When it was again afterwards given out that certain non-official Europeans had, for the purpose of gagging the native press, secretly made known their views to him for his acceptance, and that he had acceded to some of the prayers of the Anglo-Indian Defence Association, nobody was any longer left under the delusion that Mr. Thompson was willing to give effect to the promises which had been made by the Empress of India. He is only anxious to please his own countrymen. Although the letter which he has written to Lord Ripon, together with the reports of the local officers of Bengal on the Ilbert Bill, has not yet seen the light, still from his manner we can guess that he must have strongly expressed himself against the measure. Again, the few observations that he has recently made regarding the Bill in the course of his reply to the address presented him by the Municipal Commissioners of Hooghly, clearly shew that, when the measure again comes up before the Indian Legislative Council, he will certainly, to the best of his ability, disapprove of and oppose the measure.

In the course of his reply, Mr. Thompson deplored the differences which have for the past few months prevailed between natives and Europeans, and said, that it was not possible to say whether Europeans had begun them!! Who would not be surprised to hear such words from the Lieutenant-Governor at this time? Who would not be lost in wonder

at hearing such words from one to whom every public event in Bengal ought to be as clear as the image in a mirror. Does Mr. Thompson mean to say that Bengalis first attacked the excited Anglo-Indians? Did not Messrs. Keswick, Branson and Company, who are innocent in the sight of Mr. Thompson, first abuse natives at the monster meeting at the Town Hall? Has that abuse been considered by Mr. Thompson reasonable, truthful, and proper? Have Bengalis up to this time held any public meeting and abused those Anglo-Indians in their style? One or two unsatisfactory articles were indeed written in one or two native papers, but are not the writings which appeared in the *Englishman*, the *Bengal Times*, and other journals reprehensible in Mr. Thompson's judgment? Has any native newspaper gone so far? Certainly Mr. Thompson has been bewitched by the charms of Anglo-Indians.

Mr. Thompson has next said that these animosities are based on a very small matter; and that if the Bill becomes law, only two natives of India will at present receive its benefit, whereas, on the other side, a very large class will have their susceptibilities offended. His Honor therefore would be very glad if the cause of dispute were removed by any means. This remark of Mr. Thompson's shews that the Bill should be at once withdrawn by all means. We see that Mr. Thompson does not care in this matter to recognize at all the pledges given by the Empress of India and Parliament. Nor is he willing to help in the work of good administration: he is only anxious, heart and soul, to please Anglo-Indians. It is idle to protest against the views of a ruler who, in disregard of the interests of the subjects committed to his charge, and of every principle of justice, truth, and reason, is only anxious to please his own countrymen. It is stated in newspapers that the reason why Mr. Thompson is protesting against the Ilbert Bill is, that he is angry that Lord Ripon did not, when he introduced the measure into the Legislative Council, ask His Honor's opinion thereon. But we hold that, when three preceding Lieutenant-Governors of Bengal were unanimous in their advocacy of the Bill, the opinion of a new Lieutenant-Governor like Mr. Thompson must, on comparison, yield to the opinion of those three wise men. Sir George Campbell, Sir Richard Temple, and Sir Ashley Eden are all three expressing themselves in favour of the Bill. As regards the opinions of the rank and file of the European officials, it is to be observed that recent cases have shewn that they join the side which is taken by the chief ruler. The Divisional Commissioners, who a few months before the passing of Lord Lytton's Vernacular Press Act had highly commended native newspapers, branded them the next moment as seditious, insignificant, and low, as soon as Sir Ashley Eden stood up against those publications. Now that the Press Act has been repealed, they have again begun to raise the old cry. When Mr. Thompson therefore has publicly stood up against the Bill, it is no wonder that other authorities in Bengal should express such views as would be agreeable to him. If Sir Ashley Eden had been in Bengal at this time, we should not have found these officers expressing such views.

In conclusion, it is to be observed, that Mr. Thompson's observations, instead of removing race-antagonism, will have the effect of encouraging Anglo-Indians to aggravate it. Since Mr. Thompson does not possess the ability to quench the fire of race-antagonism, it behoves him to remain silent. What strong protest he will make in the Council Chamber has been known from a long time past. Now it behoves him to remain silent.

39. We extract the following observations from an article in the *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 14th August, headed "Opposition under a new face:"—The opponents of the Ilbert Bill have this time appeared

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under a different form. They have perceived from Lord Kimberley's reply that the chances for the withdrawal of the Bill are but small, and that it will not do to abuse natives now. The opponents of the measure have not therefore this time abused natives, but have sought to strike terror into the heart of the Government of India. Natives again have been sought to be imposed upon by sweet words. At the last meeting of the European Defence Association, the President, Mr. Keswick, referred to the firm resolution of the members to oppose the Bill to the last; and observed that, even if the measure was passed into law, Government would find the greatest difficulty in enforcing its provisions. Now, recourse to intimidation of this order can only become the European opponents of the Bill. What wonder that abuse and intimidation should constitute the chief weapons of a party, whose cause is weak? But what is the meaning of this intimidation? If the Bill is passed into law and enforced, will Europeans begin to oppress natives and native judges, and bring about anarchy throughout the country? Is the British Government so weak that it will not be able to defend itself? Will not Government be able to quell the sedition of these few opponents? The people cannot think that the Government is so weak. The European opponents of the Bill have lost their heads so completely that they consider Government so worthless as that. The people do not care to believe this. Knowing the nature, the power, and prestige of the British Government as they do, the fact that the opponents of the Bill have yet been able to resort to base intimidation only shews their own worthlessness. That Lord Ripon's Government will not shrink from doing its duty merely in consequence of this baseless intimidation, is what the people firmly believe. It is not therefore necessary to say anything more on this subject. But will not any measures be adopted to check this spirit of sedition? Anglo-Indians came to this country on the distinct understanding that they would be tried by the judge and under the law by whom, and according to which, respectively, natives were tried. They cannot therefore now consistently claim a special right. The man must be insane who could believe that the supremacy of the British nation would be destroyed if natives were vested with criminal jurisdiction over Europeans. If that were done, the supremacy of the British nation would, on the contrary, be more firmly established. This time the opponents of the Bill have endeavoured to cultivate the friendship of natives, and particularly of the zemindars, by referring to the action of Government in the matter of the Rent Bill. Now, the zemindars know well how to defend their own rights, and they are not so foolish that they will oppose the Ilbert Bill. In one part of his speech, Mr. Keswick passed strictures upon the manner in which the civil courts presided over by natives do their work. This is the first time that a charge of this sort has been brought against native judicial officers, a class of public servants whose abilities have been repeatedly acknowledged by the Privy Council, the High Court, and the Bengal Government.

40. The same paper is sorry to notice that the Privy Council has rejected Surendra Nath's appeal, on the ground that the High Court possesses summary jurisdiction in contempt cases. Now this declaration of the powers of the High Court places the liberty of the press in great jeopardy. The native public must bow to the decision of the Privy Council, but would point out that it is not desirable that the High Court should, in this country, where the people are weak and inoffensive, possess summary jurisdiction in contempt cases. Nor is such jurisdiction provided for in the Penal Code or the Procedure Code. The authorities may think that the High Court should be given such jurisdiction, in view of the fact

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that, in India the conquered are likely to apply abusive language to the conquerors. This, however, is entirely an erroneous view. The infliction of severe punishment upon a person without giving him an opportunity of self-defence has only the effect of making him an object of popular sympathy. The editor exhorts the native community to bestir themselves in this matter and raise subscriptions for the purpose of making powerful agitations both in England and India, with a view procure a withdrawal of the powers now vested in the High Court regarding contempt cases.

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41. We extract the following observations from an article in the same paper :—In the course of his reply to the address presented to him by the Commissioners of

Mr. Thompson at Hooghly.

the Hooghly Municipality, the Lieutenant-Governor referred to the Ilbert Bill. He is, as before, opposed to the measure : so much discussion and so much agitation have not produced any change in his views. That there has not been any change in his views is not certainly a reason why he should be blamed. But the grounds on which his opinions rest, the causes of his opposition to the Ilbert Bill, have not yet been made intelligible. What would have been regarded as erroneous convictions, if held by any other person, only excites surprise when held by one who has lived in Bengal in the midst of Bengalis for a long time. The Lieutenant-Governor says that the Ilbert Bill is a very small matter, and that, if it is passed into law, only two natives will receive its benefit. This remark of the Lieutenant-Governor after so much agitation made in favour of natives has really caused surprise. The agitation over the Bill has powerfully moved educated natives. There is hardly any other topic discussed whenever half a dozen natives happen to meet together. Native papers are three-fourths of them taken up with discussions regarding the Bill. The educated native believes that the political future of India will depend upon the results of the Ilbert Bill. This measure will test British rule in India. What was so long on paper is now to be tried on the arena of action. Although the immediate result of the Bill will be small, the scope of its fundamental principle is not small. No other measure so vast and yet confined to such small dimensions has been brought before the Legislative Council since the Vernacular Press Act was passed. Does not the Lieutenant-Governor see the present attitude of the country, and the excitement that prevails among educated natives? Certainly he cannot be regarded as so blind or so short-sighted. The Ilbert Bill has moved everybody in Bengal, from Maharajah Jatindra Mohan down to the guru mohashaya of the village pathsala. The young and the old alike are anxiously looking forward for the fate of the Ilbert Bill. Those that say that natives had been indifferent to the question of criminal jurisdiction over Europeans before Mr. B. L. Gupta wrote his note on the subject, are in error. The native press in Bengal has all along dwelt upon this question. The Lieutenant-Governor deplored the differences which had arisen between natives and Europeans, and remarked, that it was difficult to say whether natives or Europeans had begun them. It is simply impossible to properly comment upon this statement. Now, the history of the agitation over the Ilbert Bill does not cover a period which is far removed from the present. The memory of it has not yet faded away. Did the Bengal Government notice a single harsh expression in native newspapers before the first meeting at the Town Hall? The natives were perfectly silent on this subject, and relying with firm confidence upon the impartiality and greatness of Government, native society was not, during the earlier stages of this discussion, at all excited. The civilized European orators at the Town Hall exhausted the vocabulary of abuse, and needlessly attacked natives in a despicable manner. Still the native community did not cease

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to be courteous to Europeans. Having this history of the agitation present before him, it is difficult to say, unless one could see His Honor's heart, why he made the remark under notice. Mr. Thompson should not ignore the signs of the times. The condition of Bengal when he was Secretary to the Local Government now lives only in the memory of the people.

The *Utkal Darpan*, of the 29th July, writes the following :—

42. A committee of Government officers has been formed at Cuttack to discuss the provisions of the Bengal Tenancy Bill. The Collectors of Pooree, Cuttack, and Balasore are members of this committee, and the Commissioner, Mr. Larminie, is its President. In our opinion, the committee is not of a completely representative character. Government officers are generally found predisposed in favour of the ryots, consequently the interest of the zemindars will remain unrepresented. Are we to understand that the Government is in possession of all the objections that can be raised by the zemindars against the Bill in question? Every one would have been satisfied had all the representative zemindars and ryots of the three districts in Orissa been invited to represent their respective interests in the committee.

UTKAL DARPAN,  
July 29th, 1883.

43. The *Utkal Dipiká*, of the 4th August, writes the following on the same subject :—

Government officials in Cuttack on the Bengal Tenancy Bill. Last Saturday, afternoon, a meeting of the committee was held in the Commissioner's house, at which the Commissioner and the different Collectors of Orissa discussed the provisions of the Bengal Tenancy Bill. No experienced native officer or zemindar had been invited to attend the meeting. We know very little of what passed between the members of the committee. The Collectors of Balasore and Pooree proceeded last Tuesday to their respective stations. We are quite at a loss to find out the object of this private meeting.

UTKAL DIPIKÁ,  
August 4th, 1883.

RAJKRISHNA MUKHOPADHYAYA, M.A. & B.L.,

*Bengali Translator.*

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 18th August 1883.

